United Nations A/61/847–S/2007/197

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
12 April 2007

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda items 13, 14, 32, 44, 53, 55, 57, 67 and 80

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Culture of peace

Sustainable development

Globalization and interdependence

Eradication of poverty and other development issues

Promotion and protection of human rights

The rule of law at the national and international levels

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Letter dated 9 April 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter addressed to you by Gholam Ali Haddad Adel, Speaker of the Consultative Assembly (Parliament) of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who is also the President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, together with the Tehran Declaration of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 13, 14, 32, 44, 53, 55, 57, 67 and 80, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) M. Javad **Zarif**

07-30426 (E) 090507

Annex to the letter dated 9 April 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

17 February 2007

In my capacity as the Speaker of the Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, I wish to congratulate you most warmly on your election as the Secretary-General and for assuming the leadership of the United Nations since 1 January 2007. I also pray that you are showered with Divine guidance in leading this Organization at this difficult time to establish conditions under which justice could prevail, tolerance and good neighbourly relations could be practiced, international peace and security could be maintained and the international machinery could be employed for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all people, as the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations envision.

I have the honour to inform you that the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, composed of parliaments of 40 Asian States, was established at the Seventh Conference of the General Assembly of the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace, held in November 2006 in Tehran. The Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace evolved into the Asian Parliamentary Assembly. This transformation is surely a major step towards greater integration and cooperation in Asia in all possible domains and that much closer to achieving the vision of an Asian Parliament. This vision is no longer a distant dream.

The Asian Parliamentary Assembly intends to play a proactive role in promoting international peace and security, respect for the rule of law across the world, justice and a better standard of life for all, and to reject double standards and discrimination.

In this spirit, I look forward to a close working relationship in this challenging time between the United Nations and the Asian Parliamentary Assembly. Allow me to assure you of my support as well as the support of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly as you begin your arduous journey in this territory, which cannot but be chartered with our common humanity.

Attached please find a copy of the Tehran Declaration, which was adopted at the first session of the General Assembly of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly, held in Tehran from 11 to 14 November 2006 (see enclosure).

(*Signed*) Gholam Ali **Haddad Adel**
Speaker
Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran
President of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly

Enclosure

Asian Parliamentary Assembly
First Session

"ASIAN SOLIDARITY FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE"

Tehran Declaration

We, members of Parliaments from Asian countries met in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran from 12 to 14 November 2006 for the Seventh General Assembly of the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace (AAPP), at the kind invitation of His Excellency Dr. Haddad Adel, Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We, members of Parliaments, hereby adopt the following declaration:

1. We are pleased with the progress of the AAPP since the First General Assembly in the People's Republic of Bangladesh in September 1999, the Second General Assembly in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia in January 2001, the Third General Assembly in Beijing and Chongqing, the People's Republic of China in April 2002, the Fourth General Assembly in Manila, Republic of the Philippines in 2003, Fifth General Assembly in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan in 2004, and the Sixth General Assembly in Pattaya, Kingdom of Thailand in 2005.

2. We express our great satisfaction with the Tehran meeting where the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace (AAPP) was transformed into the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) in pursuit of peace based upon justice and in line with Asian economic, social and cultural values and in response to new challenges. This is in response to the needs and expressed aspirations of our peoples on the necessity to establish an assembly that will bring Asian countries into closer parliamentary cooperation. In this regard, we take note that the Charter of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) was adopted in principle, subject to modifications, where necessary, by the member national parliaments for presentation at the next session of the Executive Council of APA.

3. We strongly believe that APA will help us realize the objectives of its establishment i.e. the promotion of freedom and social justice, the expansion of the frontiers of all areas and promoting the spread of knowledge in order to promote the progress and equality of its members, making better use of the region's vast human and natural resources while advancing the interests of the member states and their populations through cooperation.

4. We welcome Afghanistan joining the Assembly as a full member, which brings the total number of members of the Assembly to 40.

5. We also welcome the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (PUIC) to become an observer to the Assembly.

6. While adopting "**Asian Solidarity for Peace and Justice**" as the theme of the General Assembly, we reaffirm that putting this theme into action will enable the Asian countries to meet people's expectations for prosperity. We also pledge to work together to make the APA realize its goals for peace, justice and solidarity.

7. We note with appreciation the Statement of by H.E. Dr. Mahmoud Ahmadi Nejad, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is published as the official document of the first Session of APA.[1]

8. We welcome the offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host an Asian conference with the participation of foreign ministers and members of parliament of Asian states to discuss the ways and means for the realization of Asian integration. This conference will create a momentum for constructive interactions among the legislative and executive organs of the member states and forge closer links among them.

9. We also welcome the adoption of a decision to set up a working group in the Islamic Republic of Iran to study and draw up a plan of action for the following subjects:

   - Promotion of solidarity, friendship and good neighbor relations among Asian states leading to a friendship pact in Asia.

   - Promotion of cooperation in the energy sector and the idea of forming an integrated energy market in Asia with the aim of ensuring the sustainability and predictability of energy supply and demand market.

   - Proposing a mechanism for reducing negative social and economic impacts of globalization and optimum use of the opportunities provided by the globalization process in Asia.

   - Proposing mechanisms for the eradication of poverty by 2015 as set by the United Nations.

   - Carrying out activities on the importance of the regions' cultural diversity for the promotion of human rights against the efforts to globally impose a particular set of cultural values.

   - Taking measures to combat corruption through education, information and promotion of good governance.

10. We encourage the role of parliaments in promoting dialogue among civilizations as well as inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogues among peoples of Asian countries.

[1] - The text of the Statement is issued as document APA/2006/Doc.5

I. POLITICAL ISSUES

Role of Asian Parliaments in advancing Democracy, Combating terrorism, Situation in the Middle East, Multilateralism

11. We express our concern at the growing resort to unilateralism and unilaterally imposed measures in international relations which undermine the United Nations Charter and International Law.

12. We also express the concern over the misuse of veto power by certain permanent members of the UN Security Council which undermine the primary responsibility of the Council in maintaining international peace and security.

13. We urge more cooperation and exchange of information in the field of citizenship and human rights among the Asian countries in order to facilitate the promotion and protection of all human rights, fundamental freedoms of all people and democratic institutions.

14. We urge all Governments to take appropriate measures to protect the rights of vulnerable groups, such as ethnic and religious minorities and oppose and condemn all attempts to violate the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Asian Countries and the interference in their internal affairs under the pretext of protection of human rights and the spread of freedom and democracy.

15. We reiterate that greater efforts should be made to preserve and promote the establishment of stable democratic institutions for the full and effective participation of the peoples in the decision making process.

16. We reject any attempt to use double standards and to politicize the issue of human rights aimed at exerting pressure on certain countries.

17. We firmly reject the application of coercive economic measures and unilateral sanctions. The imposition of these measures under whatever pretexts not only impacts adversely on the well-being and daily lives of ordinary people, but which also contradicts with the principles of multilateral free trade.

18. We reiterate that terrorism in Afghanistan is a threat to peace and security in and outsides the country and stress the need to render assistance to the Afghan government in fighting against terrorism and violence.

19. We urge all governments to do their best for the withdrawal of the occupying powers from Iraq, and support all Iraqi people in rebuilding their country.

20. We urge the Asian parliaments to play an active role on the situation in Palestine and Lebanon, which has continuously deteriorated in recent months in breach of the principles of the United

Nations Charter, international law and international humanitarian law adversely effecting in achieving a fair and just settlement in the Middle East.

21. We condemn the atrocities perpetrated by Israeli regime during its invasion of Lebanon in June 2006. We also condemn the massacre of civilians particularly women and children by Israeli regime, especially the use by the Israeli army of weapons banned by all international agreements.

22. We note with serious concern the current developments in the Middle East and particularly the Israeli efforts to renew its arsenals and stockpile large amounts of modern weapons and armaments with the support of the United States.

23. We condemn the continued occupation of parts of the Lebanese territory, the continued infringement of the Lebanese sovereignty and also the violation of the UN Security Council resolution 1701 by Israeli regime. We also condemn the Israeli act of dropping millions of cluster bombs over southern Lebanon and hold the Israeli regime responsible for the legal consequences of all its crimes.

24. We reaffirm the right of the Lebanese people to resist the Israeli occupation until the liberations of Shaba farms region and Kafarshuba hills in Lebanon.

25. We urge the Asian parliaments to make every effort through their respective governments to stop aggression and the use of force by Israeli regime against the Palestinian and Lebanese people.

26. We strongly condemn Israeli regime for abducting and detaining the Speaker and members of the Palestine Parliament and call for their immediate and unconditional release.

27. We reiterate the need for cooperation among the Asian States in combating human trafficking; drug trafficking and other transnational organized crimes.

II. SOCIO-ECONOMIC

Following up the Millennium Development Goals, Anti-Poverty Fund, Asian Monetary Fund, Global Debt Relief, Multilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation in Asia

28. We urge that Asian Parliamentarians work towards enhancing coordination, encouraging exchanges in the fields of economic and social development, including regional and sub-regional cooperation.

29. We urge Member Parliaments to accelerate their efforts in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through enactment of laws and other means, including enhancing mechanisms to oversee, monitor and assess the achievements of these Goals.

30. We request the President of APA to appoint an expert team to consult with the governments of Member States on the establishment, structure and mechanics of an Asian Monetary Fund and to report the results of its consultations to the President at the next APA General Assembly. He shall likewise report on the Asian Anti-Poverty Fund established at the Islamabad Conference. We call on Member Parliaments to collectively forge global solidarity in advancing the implementation of global debt relief, to seriously work and to urge creditor countries in the conversion of large scale debts into equities, swap or outright reduction of debt of developing countries as a means of poverty alleviation.

31. We emphasize the need for full access by all countries to advanced technologies and knowledge including nano-, bio-, agricultural, medical, nuclear, information and space sciences and technologies, while firmly opposing any monopoly in energy know-how and technology.

32. We recall the huge economic potentials of the region, and encourage the establishment of Asian integrated markets in fields such as energy, nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, and new technologies, which contribute to sustainable economic growth.

33. We encourage Member Parliaments to promote the development of a swift response and a regional cooperation on an early warning system to reduce the tragic consequences of natural disasters which affect the lives and livelihoods of many Asians.

34. We call on Member Parliaments to initiate exchanges of information and joint actions among their law enforcement authorities against human and drugs trafficking, illegal migration, and the economic abuse and maltreatment of migrant labor.

III. PEACE AND SECURITY

Role of Asian Parliamentarians in Promoting Peace, Stability and Security in Asia and the Pacific Region, Disarmament, Non- Proliferation and Peaceful use of Nuclear Energy and Suppression of Drug Trafficking

35. We reaffirm that the Untied Nations is an indispensable and irreplaceable global mechanism for the promotion of a shared vision of a more secure and prosperous world, and has the central role in the maintenance of international peace and security and the promotion of international cooperation, through equal participation of all States in a transparent and multilateral manner. We also emphasize that the United Nations should fulfill its functions in a manner to strengthen peace, stability and justice all over the world.

36. We stress that multilateralism and multilateral processes are essential tools in addressing the common threats and challenges, and rejected the interventionist tendencies as a real threat to the

world community and any unilateral pre-emptive action in international relations as a clear violation of the UN Charter and the principles of international law.

37. We call on Asian Parliaments to contribute actively towards the establishment of a New International Order based on peace, justice and equality and respect for international legality and capable of guaranteeing progress for all.

38. We highlight the importance of addressing the root causes of international terrorism such as foreign occupation, injustice, racism, poverty and the widening gap between rich and poor.

39. We support the idea of convening an international conference under the aegis of the United Nations to set a definition for terrorism and distinguish it from the struggle of people under foreign occupation. In this connection, we reiterate that the struggle of peoples living under the yoke of foreign occupation and colonialism, to achieve national liberation and establish their right to self-determination, does not in any way constitute an act of terrorism.

40. We reaffirm that the inalienable right of all states to develop and use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, without discrimination and in conformity with their legal obligations should be respected by all states and should not be interpreted in a way as inhibiting or restricting this right of states to develop atomic energy for peaceful purposes. Furthermore, we reaffirm that states' choices and decisions in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear technology and its fuel cycle policies must be respected.

41. We strongly stress the importance of enhancing global inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue to promote peace, and strongly urge the establishment of a unit within the UN system to institutionalize these dialogues.

42. We recognize the need for developing a Friendship Pact in Asia and requested the Asian Parliaments to consider this issue thoroughly in order to enhance amity and friendship among Asian countries. In this regard they decided to set up a working group to study the subject and submit a draft Friendship Pact to the Assembly next year for its further consideration.

IV. WOMEN AND YOUTH

Cultural Diversity, Preserving Family Values, Combating Human Trafficking, Non-use of Violence against Women and Children and their Education and Health

43. We strongly affirm that Asian women's constructive and effective participation in the sustainable development process of the region is invaluable. An environment should be provided for women to make utmost use of the existing material and spiritual resources in order to promote their knowledge, skills and capabilities to play a vital role in the cultural, social, economic and political fields. We welcome the Declaration of the year 2007 as the "Year of Asian Women".

44. We call on the parliaments of the member states to take the necessary measures to create, protect and ensure a safe and peaceful environment for women promotion through allocating resources and facilities, enactment of progressive laws and adoption of the supportive programs and policies to reinforce the multifaceted role of women inter-alia motherhood, family management and their social, cultural, economic and political contributions to the trend of sustainable development.

45. We acknowledge that children and youths are great assets who build up the future of Asian society. Accordingly, providing a safe and conducive family environment as well as fulfilling protective, educational and training facilities appropriate for preparing children and youths to commence social life to contribute to the developing process of their societies are vital.

46. We undertake to carry out the necessary legal, educational and health acquainting measures to protect children and youth in the family and society, and serious consideration for promotion of their educational , intellectual , life skills , good-health and also to develop comprehensive polices and programs to ensure their survival, protection, growth and development ;moreover, enjoyment of their basic rights in the development process.

***

47. We, due to their importance, adopt two separate statements on Iran's nuclear issue, and Palestine, which are issued and annexed to this declaration.

***

VI. Acknowledgement of Appreciation

48. We express our profound gratitude to the Islamic Consultative Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Iran and to the great people of Iran for graciously hosting the First Session of the General Assembly of APA and a warm hospitality extended to all delegates during the whole time of their stay in Iran.

49. We request the speaker of the consultative Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the current president of the APA, His Excellency Dr. Haddad Adel, with the cooperation of member Parliaments, to pursue the implementation of the decisions made in this First session of the APA, and report the result to the next session of the General Assembly.

50. We note with great satisfaction that the Second APA Presidency will be assumed by Indonesia and the Indonesian Parliament is pleased to invite and welcome the participation of all member Parliaments in 2008.

51. We express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the parliament of the Syrian Arab Republic for its nomination to assume the Third APA presidency.